

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for decreasing ~~the~~ an amount of a first analyte in a biological fluid that is capable of binding to a first capture reagent immobilized on a solid support without decreasing ~~the~~ an amount of a second analyte in said biological fluid that is capable of binding to a second capture reagent immobilized on said solid support, the method comprising contacting said biological fluid with said first capture reagent free in solution.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent is an antibody.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent is a nucleic acid ligand.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first analyte is a protein.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent has a dissociation constant of K_d with said first analyte, a concentration on said solid support of C_s , and a concentration in solution of C_f wherein the dissociation constant, K_d , of said first analyte for said first capture reagent is greater than the concentration, C_s , of said first capture reagent immobilized on said solid support, and wherein the concentration, C_f , of said first capture reagent free in solution is greater than said dissociation constant, K_d .

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the concentration of said first capture reagent free in solution is about ten-fold greater than said dissociation constant.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent has a dissociation constant of K_d with said first analyte, a concentration on said solid support of C_s , and a concentration in solution of C_f , wherein the dissociation constant, K_d , of said first analyte for said first capture reagent is less than the concentration, C_s , of said first capture reagent immobilized on said solid support, and wherein the concentration, C_f of said first capture reagent free in solution is greater than C_s .

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the concentration of said first capture reagent free in solution is about ten-fold greater than C_s .

9. (currently amended) A method for increasing ~~the~~ saturation point for an analyte of a capture reagent immobilized on a solid support, the method comprising contacting said solid support with said capture reagent free in solution, wherein said capture reagent is a nucleic acid ligand.

10. (currently amended) A method for determining ~~the~~ concentration of an analyte in a biological fluid, the method comprising:

- a) providing a first quantity of a capture reagent capable of binding to said analyte with a dissociation constant of K_d , wherein said first quantity of said capture reagent is a nucleic acid ligand immobilized on a solid support;
- b) contacting said solid support with a mixture comprising said biological fluid and a second quantity of said capture reagent;
- c) measuring the ~~amount of said~~ analyte bound to said first quantity of capture reagent; and

d) calculating the concentration of said analyte in said biological fluid based on the measurement made in step c), the ~~concentration of said~~ second quantity of said capture reagent in the mixture of step b), and the K_d of said capture reagent.

11. (currently amended) A method for lowering the nonspecific binding of an analyte in a biological fluid to a non-cognate capture reagent immobilized on a solid support, the method comprising contacting said biological fluid with a capture reagent capable of specifically binding to said analyte, wherein said capture reagent capable of specifically binding to said analyte is free in solution in said biological fluid.

12. (currently amended) A method for increasing the effective concentration of a capture reagent immobilized on a solid support, the method comprising contacting said solid support with said capture reagent free in solution, wherein said capture reagent is a nucleic acid ligand.